

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137751

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS FOR WORLD MEDICAL USE AND TURKISH

OPIUM BAN

REF: A) ANKARA 5013 (NOTAL); B) STATE 135135

1. ADDRESSEE POSTS SHOULD TREAT SUBJECT OF OPIUM SUPPLY AS
ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL EFFECT ON US-
TURKISH DISCUSSIONS OF TURKISH OPIUM BAN. GOT IS UNDER
CONSIDERABLE DOMESTIC PRESSURE TO RESUME PRODUCTION, BUT IS
HESITATING IN FACE OF US WARNINGS THAT SUCH AN ACT COULD
PRECIPITATE A SERIOUS DETERIORATION OF US-TURKISH RELATIONS.
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MAJOR SOURCE OF IRRITATION ON TURKSIH SIDE IS AWARENESS OF

WORLD MEDICINAL OPIATE SHORTAGE AND RESULTANT US EFFORTS PERSUADE INDIA TO INCREASE PRODUCTION. TURKS SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT PROPOSITION THAT THEY LESS ABLE THAN INDIANS TO CONTROL SMUGGLING. TURKISH SITUATION ENTERING VERY DELICATE STAGE AS POINT APPROACHES BEYOND WHICH GOT WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO AUTHORIZE A FALL PLANTING. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT BOTH TO OUR ANTI-NARCOTICS-EFFORT AND OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY THAT GOT DECISION BE DELAYED BEYOND THAT POINT. CONSEQUENTLY WE SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN OPIUM BAN AND TO RESIST PRESSURES BY NATIONALISTS AND FROM ILLICIT TRAFFICKERS TO LIFT BAN, ESPECIALLY NOW THAT ARGUMENTS FOR MAINTAINING BAN AND WARNINGS OF DANGERS OF LIFTING IT SEEM TO BE MAKING IMPRESSION ON TURKISH LEADERS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS US POLICY IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER EFFECTIVE CONTROLS AND WITHOUT INCREASING RISK OF DIVERSION TO ILLICIT MARKET. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM OF RESEARCH DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING THIS OBJECTIVE WAS AGREED UPON BY CND AT ITS THIRD SPECIAL SESSION LAST FEBRUARY, AND US AND OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES PUBLICLY SUPPORTED IT. APPROACHES TO GOI AND TO UN SELRETARIAT'S NARCOTICS DIVISION REQUESTED IN REF B ARE INTENDED TO CONTINUE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS IN SUPPORT OF THAT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.

3. IN VIEW GROWING GAP BETWEEN PROJECTED SUPPLIES AND INCREASING DEMAND FOR OPIATES FOR MEDICAL USE, WORLD ATTENTION IS INEVITABLY CONCENTRATED UPON INCREASING AVAILABILITIES FROM OPIUM POPPY AND STRAW PRODUCTION IN INDIA, ESPECIALLY TO MEET SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENTS. WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN CND IN FOCUSING RESULTING EFFORT ESSENTIALLY ON PROGRAMS OF RESEARCH BUT THESE RESEARCH PROGRAMS SHOULD BE PURSUED ENERGETICALLY. MOREOVER, WE CANNOT DODGE THE FACT THAT INDIA HAS BECOME SOLE EXPORTER FOR LEGAL MARKET AND IS CONSIDERED BY TREATY ORGAN AS WELL AS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS GENERALLY TO BE RESPONSIBLE PRODUCER WITH EXPERIENCE IN APPLYING EFFECTIVE CONTROLS.

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OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO AVOID PROLIFERATION OF PRODUCING AREAS AND ENTRANCE INTO THE MARKET OF NEW, UNTRIED PRODUCERS AS WELL AS RETURN TO PRODUCTION BY TURKEY WHICH WAS NOT ABLE TO PREVENT SUBSTANTIAL DIVERSION FROM ITS PRODUCTION.

4. TO SUM UP, WE HAVE TWO IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES, TO ASSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES FOR MEDICAL USE AND TO MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL SYSTEM. THESE TWO OBJEC-

TIVES ARE NOT INCONSISTENT WITH EACH OTHER. THEY ARE RATIONALLY CONCEIVED AND THEY MUST BE PURSUED TOGETHER.

5. NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, WE WISH TO AVOID OR AT LEAST TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EMOTIONAL REACTION IN TURKEY TO ACTIVE EXPLORATION OF INCREASED OPIATE AVAILABILITIES IN INDIA AT THIS TIME WHILE TURKEY IS ACTIVELY REVIEWING ITS POSITION ON OPIUM BAN. TO IS-END, GENEVA IS REQUESTED TO DOWNPLAY OUR ROLE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UN LABORATORY, THAT ASISTT OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAM INVOLVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIA AND TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE TO THE UN LAB, OTHER GOVERNMENTS, AND OTHER EXPERTS. QUENTIN JONES, US MEMBER OF UN PANEL OF EXPERTS TO MEET JULY 10-12, WILL RECEIVE SIMILAR GUIDANCE. IN ADDITION, NEW DELHI IS REQUESTED TO CONTINUE ON AN INFORMAL, LOW-KEY BASIS ITS DISCUSSIONS WHICH IT HAS BEEN CARRYING ON WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS CONCERNING CURRENT AND PROJECTED AVAILABILITIES BEARING IN MIND THE POTENTIAL IMPACT IN TURKEY OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. OUR IMMEDIATE INTEREST IS PRINCIPALLY IN OBTAINING MORE EXACT INFORMATION ABOUT PLANNED ACREAGE, THE POSSIBILITY OF HIGHER YIELDS PER ACRE, AND MAXIMUM FEASIBLE UTILIZATION OF INCISED POPPY STRAW. WE DO NOT DESIRE TO GO BEYOND BUT MERELY TO CONFIRM THE UNDERSTANDINGS ARRIVED AT IN OPEN SESSION AT 1974 CND MEETING.

6. WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO NEW DELHI 8229, WE ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT CAPACITY OF POPPY STRAW PLANT WILL BE. WE HOPE THAT INCISED STRAW NOT USED BY PROJECTED PLANT WILL BE EXPORTED FOR EXTRACTION OF MORPHINE ABROAD. FURTHER WITH RESPECT TO REQUEST OF INDIANS FOR OFFICIAL US ESTIMATE OF IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR 1975
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BY END OF JUNE 1974, WE SHALL SEEK TO GET AN ESTIMATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO CONVEY TO INDIANS TO ASSIST THEM IN PLANNING 1975 PRODUCTION. SISCO

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